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Latin America

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COMMANDER MENENDEZ CALLS FOR RESIGNATION OF VIOLA

PY291122 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1010 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 29 Sep (NA)--III Corps Commander Luciano Menendez issued the following communique early this morning:

I have just sent a communique to the army commander in chief requesting him to leave his post immediately for the following reasons:

1. In view of the fact that the idea of the army has been put aside in favor of personal preferences not in keeping with the proper institutionalization that is the basis of this process,

2. Because the duty of eradicating subversion has not been fulfilled, closing the doors so Marxism will not recur in the country's future. On the contrary, we have fallen into inadmissible acquiesence.

3. This procedure is not in keeping with the reasons which gave our men of the armed forces the impulse to assume responsibilities and to put the nation back onto the right path--something which made all the citizens applaud the process started on 24 March 1976. We are now creating confusion, discouragement and loss of confidence among the people who gave us their endorsement to act with energy and firmness.

4. All these points are the exclusive responsibility of the army commander in chief, and it is my unavoidable duty as III Corps commander to demand that this situation be brought to an end with the immediate removal of Lt Gen Viola from his post. Otherwise, Lt Gen Viola will be solely responsible.

Viola Envoys to Menendez

PY291152 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0955 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 29 Sep (NA)--Maj Gen Roberto Viola, army commander in chief, has reportedly sent two generals to talk with Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez. According to unofficial reports, these two generals have already talked with Menendez and are back in Buenos Aires.

Cordoba's LV2 Radio General Paz stopped broadcasting at 0620, after being on the air all night broadcasting the Menendez proclamation several times. The proclamation was not properly a communique, but a memorandum to the press in which Menendez outlines four points on which he based his decision to demand Viola's removal.

Maj Hugo Sala, interventor of Radio General Paz, attended a meeting of directors of press organizations and asked the III Corps commander to read his proclamation over the radio. Thus, Menendez himself read the four-point communique he issued to outline the reasons for his rebellion. The communique was broadcast over the above radio station until 0620 when it suddenly went off the air for unknown reasons.

MENENDEZ, DEPUTY RELIEVED OF POSTS

OW291100 Hong Kong AFP in English 1059 GMT 29 Sep 79 OW

[Text] Buenos Aires, Sept. 29 (AFP)--Argentina's Armed Forces Commander in Chief Gen Roberto Viola today relieved Third Army Corps Commander Gen. Luciano Benjamin Menendez and his deputy, Gen. Jorge Maradona, of their posts.

The sackings followed Gen. Mendendez's public demand early today that Gen. Viola, a member of the ruling government junta, step down from his military command. Gen. Menendez accused him of failing to slam the door on a return of Marxism to the country, and failing to eliminate subversion in the armed forces.

At the same time, in the Third Army Corps region of San Juan, 1100 kms (nearly 700 miles) northwest of here, radio and television announcements told all servicemen to return to their barracks immediately.

Gen. Viola has reportedly sent two generals to Cordoba to talk to General Menendez.

There were no immediate reports of violence today. Uncertainty reigned over how the sacked general--viewed as an army hardliner--would react.

Gen. Viola's announcement that the two heads of the powerful Third Army Corps were being dismissed said the measure was necessary for the unity of the armed forces.

His statement followed Gen. Menendez's release of a telegram, at 4 a.m. (0700 GMT) today, that he had sent to the armed forces commander in chief asking him to step down.

The telegram accused General Viola of ignoring army opinion and, by not eliminating subversion, of betraying the motives which had pushed the armed forces into taking power in March 1976.

Radio Cordoba, which had repeatedly broadcast details of the telegram in its bulletins after 4.30 a.m. (0730 GMT), stopped referring to it at 6.20 a.m. (0920 GMT).

Viola Appoints Replacement

PY291230 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1218 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Sep (NA)--Army Commander in Chief Lt Gen Roberto Viola this morning appointed Brig Gen Jose Antonio Vaquero, V Corps Commander, to replace Maj Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez as III Corps Commander. This information was officially released by the army commander in chief.

General Vaquero Sworn In

PY291500 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1440 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Sep (NA)--Maj Gen Jose A. Vaquero assumed his functions as the new commander of III Corps at 1105, replacing Gen Luciano B. Menendez, who was dismissed this morning by the army commander in chief, it has been reported at the Libertador Building. General Vaquero, who was commander of V Corps stationed in Bahia Blanca, arrived in Cordoba at 1030 and immediately went to the military unit where the swearing in ceremony was held.

Menendez Rebels Against Dismissal

PY291358 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1347 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 29 Sep (NA)--Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez is now at the Gendarmeria Nacional School for Noncommissioned Officers near the Jesus Maria locality where he reportedly intends to resist his removal as commander of III Corps by army commander in chief Lt Gen Roberto Viola.

Viola Communique on Rebellion

PY291701 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1628 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Sep (TELAM)--The following communique was issued by the army commander in chief this noon:

Yesterday, 28 September 1979, the commander of III Corps ordered an unjustified movement of some of the units dependent on the Cordoba garrison. As a consequence of this movement and since he did not receive a satisfactory explanation for it, the army commander in chief notified the commander of III Corps of his dismissal and ordered him to report to headquarters.

Early this morning General Menéndez telephoned the army commander in chief and demanded the latter's resignation, a move he made public later at a press conference held at the General Paz Military Academy.

The surprising and unusual procedure followed by General Menendez has broken army rules and has affected the harmonious development of the process underway. He tried to justify his action based on strictly personal views.

Maj Gen Jose Antonio Vaquero, complying with orders from the army commander in chief, has been in Cordoba, the location of III Corps, since 0950 today as the new commander of III Corps.

General Menendez and a small group of officers have been in Jesus Maria and still have not changed their attitude.

The situation is completely normal and all other garrisons of the country remain loyal to their respective commanders.

NAVY, AIR FORCE NOT INVOLVED IN III CORPS AFFAIR

PY291229 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1046 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Sep (NA)--The navy and the air force have in no way been involved in the event which are taking place in the army, navy and air force sources reported this morning. The sources added that the situation "was completely normal" in the air force and the navy and that the respective commanders have been following the events only for information purposes.

Minimal Support for Menendez

PY291320 Paris AFP in Spanish 1215 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 29 Sep (AFP)--Six hours after the Maj Gen Luciano Menendez uprising against Army Commander in Chief Lt Gen Roberto Viola, this high-ranking official and Deputy Commander Jorge Maradona appeared to be the only ones involved.

So far neither Menendez nor Maradona have obeyed the dismissal ordered by Lt Gen Viola, whom they asked to leave his post because they believe he does not adhere to the principles of the military government which came into power on 24 March 1976.

The uprising, which started early this morning, has not had the support of the I Corps, II Corps, V Corps or the commander of the military institutions which together with III Corps are the main army ground combat units. Menendez and Maradona thus appear isolated in Cordoba, 780 km northeast of Buenos Aires, at the headquarters of III Corps. Even some brigades of this combat unit have voiced their support for Lt Gen Viola and his decision to remove Menendez and Maradona from their posts.

Reports from Cordoba state that the air brigades with headquarters in this city remain on alert and some spokesmen have stated that the conflict strictly involves the ground units, and they should solve it. The attitude of this brigade is shared by the air force and the navy, which have decided to remain uninvolved.

Uprising Under Control

PY291243 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1214 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 29 Sep (NA)--The rebellion initiated this morning by III Corps Commander Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez seemed to have been brought completely under control by midmorning. According to military sources, Menendez and III Corps Deputy Commander Gen Jorge Maradona have been discussing with other generals the terms for changing their attitude.

The meeting is apparently being held at the officers' dining room of the General Paz Military Academy, whose entrances are controlled by paratroops who are, however, making no excessive display of weapons and men. The paratroops are responsible to Army Commander Lt Gen Roberto Viola. There is only a small group of men on duty at the military academy.

The paratroops arrested three journalists of the newspaper LOS PRINCIPIOS as they were leaving the academy. They are being held awating instructions because they were told no one could leave the military institution.

Situation Normal in Various Areas

PY291508 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1350 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[Excerpt] Rosario, 29 Sep (TELAM)--The situation is normal at the headquarters of the II Corps of Lt Gen Juan Carlos Sanchez stationed in this city. II Corps is loyal to their commanders and there appears to be no movement of troops. Activities in this city are going on normally.

Movement Banned Around School

PY291512 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1452 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 29 Sep (NA)--All access roads to the gendarmeria school for non-commissioned officers in Los Nogales, a district adjacent to Jesus Maria, have been blocked by personnel of this unit who, armed with rifles and small arms, are banning traffic in the area. Neither individuals nor vehicles are allowed to move within an area of 4 km. Gen Luciano Menendez, who was removed as commander of III Corps, is inside the school for noncommissioned officers.

Minimal Support From Units

PY292041 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2023 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Sep (TELAM)--The following is the text of Communique No 4 issued by the army commander in chief:

In view of the surprising and unjustified personal attitude adopted by General Menendez, the army commander in chief deems it his duty to report to the public the following:

In adopting this attitude he did not consult with the commanders of units under his command, nor was his attitude supported later by these commanders. Therefore, those commanders have decisively and permanently remained loyal to the army's superior leadership.

Of the many units under III Corps, only two support General Menendez' action.

All this reveals the markedly individualist, personalist position adopted by this general, and the fact that his attitude is both untimely and weak, all of which is reflected in the meager support it has elicited from units under his command.

MENENDEZ READY 'TO MARCH ON CORDOBA'

PY291618 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1536 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 29 Sep (NA)--In a telephone interview he gave from the Jesus Maria gendarmeria school, Maj Gen Luciano Menendez said he is ready "to march on Cordoba at the head of my troops."

Menendez reaffirmed the ideas he outlined in the document he issued this morning at the General Paz Military Academy in which he challenged the authority of Lt Gen Roberto Viola. His only demand, he said, "is General Viola's removal as army commander in chief because he is responsible for all the distortions that can be obsered in the process."

Asked if by questioning the authority of the commander in chief he was not undermining the authority of the president of the nation, he said that he is acting "strictly and exclusively based on an evaluation of the circumstances from a military viewpoint," and that he is doing that "acting as a military man, assuming military responsibilities, and without considering other peripheral implications."

He then stated that "the process is being distorted because the army has not been fully exercising the government's revolutionary power," and that "needed basic measures have not yet been taken as of today." Asked if these basic measures involve the present economic leadership, Menendez said that when he spoke of basic measures to deepen the revolutionary process he was referring "to all aspects of the government leadership."

Asked with what troops he thought of marching on Cordoba, he said he would go with the engineering and arsenal units and other minor battalions.

Asked whether he knew that Gen Jose Vaquero had been appointed as his replacement, he answered that he knew he had been replaced and asserted that "in fact, I do not respect that decision."

He was then told about the communique issued by Gen Ramon Lepori which mentions that the IV, V and VIII brigades, which are under III Corps, are loyal to the army commander in chief. Menendez said he had already heard that information but stated: "I am very well informed on what is really happening in all the country's barracks."

Finally Menendez said he would let the press media know as soon as he started his march on Cordoba and would make himself available to reporters to provide them with any other information regarding the development of events.

Second Telephone Interview

PY291825 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1747 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 29 Sep (NA)--In a second telephone conversation with a NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS reporter in this capital, Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez, who at 1355 was still in the Gendarmeria Nacional School for Noncommisioned Officers in Los Nogales, Jesus Maria, stated that the director of Gendarmeria Nacional, Gen Antonio Domingo Bussi, is not there.

[Question] What then is the situation of the Gendarmeria Nacional School for Non-commissioned Officers?

[Answer] I am not going to answer that since it is a military secret for the time being.

[Question] What news can be expected in the next few hours?

[Answer] We will see. We are making an analysis and are studying the situation to find the way and means to enter Cordoba.

[Question] Have you not moved from there yet?

[Answer] Yes, I have moved somewhat, but just to organize the troops as they arrive.

[Question] General, officers and people in civilian clothes were seen entering the Gendarmeria Nacional School for Noncommisioned Officers in several cars. What is it all about and who are those persons?

[Answer] They are part of my personnel and of the elements which are gathering here. People are coming here from all places. Some people who were at home, since today is a holiday, have just learned about this and more people are coming here. This is why I tell you that I have been preparing and evaluating things to see how I could best take advantage of personnel which are increasing every minute...

[Question] Would it be possible for us to interview you personally at the school?

[Answer] No, I do not want you to bother because I would rather not receive anyone. First because anyone coming here would be taking an unnecessary risk; and secondly, obviously I cannot allow any one alien to the organization inside our defensive limits which, as I told you, are quite large and we would not even be able to see each other accross the fence.

[Question] Would you like to add anyting, General?

[Answer] I am certain that my position is shared by most officers; I would even say by most of the army.

[Question] Thank you, General.

[Answer] Any time. So long.

AIR FORCE COMMANDER RETURNS UNEXPECTEDLY FROM LIMA

PY292111 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2042 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Sep (NA)--Lt Gen Omar Graffigna, commander in chief of the air force, unexpectedly returned today from Peru where he was making an official visit. Graffigna arrived at the military sector of the aeroparque metropolitan airport at 1550.

The following members of his entourage returned with him: Maj Gen Jesus Orlando Capellini, commander of air operations; Gen Grancisco Salinas, chief of staff; and Col Juan Andres Poleri, air force public relations chief.

ARMY COMMUNIQUE SEES MENENDEZ LOSING SUPPORT

PY292145 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2130 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Sep (TELAM)--The following is the text of Communique No 5 issued by the army commander in chief:

Maj Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez persists in his rebellious attitude toward the army commander in chief.

Of the small military personnel who initially supported his movement, the 141st Engineer Battalion is now retreating to its headquarters in Paz, Santiago del Estero Province, complying with orders from the army commander in chief. The appropriate measures continue to be adoped to bring the situation to normal

MENENDEZ UNITS REPORTEDLY SURROUNDED BY PARATROOPS

PY292357 Paris AFP in Spanish 2336 GMT 29 Sep 79 PY

[By Jose Costas]

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 29 Sep (AFP)--An unsuccessful uprising against Argentine Army Commander Gen Roberto Viola was carried out today by Gen Luciano Menendez, commander of the III Corps, headquartered in Cordoba, 800 kms northeast of Buenos Aires.

Heavily armed paratroops of the 4th Airborne Infantry Brigade, loyal to the army commander, have surrounded the installations where the rebellious general and officers who support him are positioned, but they have not yet received orders to take action.

A helicopter of the III Corps this afternoon overflew the military establishment of Jesus Maria, 70 km from the provincial capital.

Official sources indicated late this afternoon that the situation created in Cordoba by Gen Luciano Menendez was solved.

The crisis erupted late Friday night and according to Buenos Aires afternoon dailies, it had been preceeded by various disagreements voiced by General Menendez lately.

They indicated that at the beginning of this year the rebel military officer voiced his opposition to the detente with Chile in connection with the conflict over the southern region.

Two weeks ago he criticized the presence of the IHRC on Argentine soil and just recently he expressed opposition to the fulfillment of the Argentine Supreme Court ruling to release journalist Jacobo Timerman.

FORMER CORDOBA GOVERNOR REPORTEDLY MEETS WITH MENENDEZ

PY300201 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0153 GMT 30 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 29 Sep (NA)--Insistent rumors are circulating in this city that former Governor Gen Carlos Chasseing, ret, had arrived here this afternoon and met with Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez at Los Nogales military bivouac, close to Jesus Maria.

According to the rumors, Chasseing arrived in Cordoba after [words indistinct]. As you will recall, the former governor resigned because he disagreed with the contribution demanded from the province to relieve the national budget deficit.

Chasseing May Negotiate With Menendez

PY300235 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0203 GMT 30 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Sep (NA)--Military sources confirmed here tonight that the commander of the I Corps, Gen Leopoldo Galtieri, made a short visit to Cordoba this afternoon, but denied that he had met with General Menendez.

A report from that city had indicated that Galtieri had unsuccessfully tried to persuade the rebel commander to give up.

The source indicated that this may be the purpose of the visit to Cordoba of former Governor Carlos Chasseing, who might conduct negotiations on the basis of his old friendship with Menendez.

NEW III CORPS COMMANDER SAYS THINGS UNDER CONTROL

PY300217 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0201 GMT 30 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 20 Sep (NA)--The office of the commander of the III Corps issued the following communique at 2245 tonight:

"The commander of the III Corps, Maj Gen Jose Antonio Vaquero, informs the population that the situation within the jurisdiction of this corps, especially in the 31st Subzone, Cordoba, is totally under control and that no armed clashes have taken place in this province or elsewhere within the jurisdiction."

TROOPS HOLD POSITIONS, MAN BLOCKADES IN JESUS MARIA

FY301821 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1755 GMT 30 Sep 79 FY

[Text] Jesus Maria, Cordoba, 30 Sep (NA)--At 1425 the city of Jesus Maria was still "divided in two" by a ring of paratroopers, while the citizenry and the local police have been forbidden to cross from one sector of the city to the other. A rumor--which could not be confirmed due to the strict blockade--indicates that former commander of III Corps, Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez, is inside the Gendarmeria Nacional school.

The dividing line in the city has been established by paratroops who continue their siege up to the Gendarmeria Nacional along the Mitre railroad which divides (west and east) the town of Jesus Maria.

The west side, occupied by military forces, includes the hospital, the city hall and the police headquarters. But the local police cars and their occupants on patrol had to remain on the other side without being able to reach their own headquarters because crossing the dividing line is strictly forbidden.

There has been some dissatisfaction among the population because many families have been "cut in two" on a Sunday, and all negotiations carried out to allow a normalization of the situation have yielded no positive results. The soldiers are still lying on the ground, barricaded behind the railroad and the railroad enbankment and behind the walls of the railway station, aiming their rifles toward the streets which lead to the 3-km route that ends at the Gendarmeria Nacional school.

Military sources indicated that General Menendez, however, reached the Gendarmeria school before the blockade had become impenetrable. The order given by the military authorities is that "no one, regardless of who he is, can enter or leave the security zones."

MEDIA INSTRUCTED TO RELEASE ONLY OFFICIAL INFORMATION

FY300049 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0032 GMT 30 Sep 79 FY

[Text] Cordoba, 29 Sep (NA)--After 1300 today, directors of this capital's news media were summoned separately to the Government House.

According to the information they released, the secretary general of the provincial government, Col Oscar Pedro Avalos, ret, asked for their cooperation in the current circumstances which "are difficult for the nation," and told them that the only information they should broadcast is that coming from the Under Secretariat of Press and Broadcasting of the Government House, the commander of the III Corps and official news agency TELAM.

GENERAL MENENDEZ HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE IN LOS NOGALES

FY300257 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0231 GMT 30 Sep 79 FY

[Text] Cordoba, 29 Sep (NA)--Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez held a press conference at which he explained his mutiny by criticizing, among other things, the leadership of the current process, which "allows the release of subversive Marxist ideologists at a time when their pupils come up with the monstruous attack against Doctor (Walter) Klein, as a bloody joke."

He also expressed his opinion that the process launched on 24 March 1976 "must be conducted in a revolutionary manner," because in his opinion it is a "revolutionary power which must be exercised firmly, energetically and, if necessary, with the violence of a revolutionary power."

General Menendez explained the reasons for his attitude in a press conference which he held around 1700 at the school for border police noncoms in Los Nogales, about a half-hour trip from this capital. The press conference was attended by a group of local journalists.

At the beginning of his conference, General Menendez reaffirmed the position which he had voiced in a proclamation broadcast by a radio station of this capital, stating that "this position reflects the way most of the army officers who are engaged in conscientiously fulfilling the duty which led them to power on 24 March 1976 feel."

He also said that by now "I have taken measures and am studying how I am going to get into Cordoba tonight or tomorrow morning."

After repeating the criticisms which he had made earlier against the leadership of the current process, he said that "the commander of the III Corps has the ineluctable duty to put an end to this situation by the removal of the army commander in chief, General Viola.

He added: "Otherwise, General Viola will be the only one responsible for the consequences. This means that the cause of this problem is that we are being lenient, that the army is not being led firmly enough and that in disrupting the basic principles of the process and permitting the freedom of Marxist ideologists at a time when their pupils produce the monstruous attack against Doctor Klein as a bloody joke, it dissappoints the people who on 24 March 1976 gave the armed forces carte blanche to correct the evils which the country has been experiencing for 40 years.

In the course of his dialog with the journalists, General Menendez was asked whether he had had contact today with General Vaquero, who had been appointed to replace him by Army Commander in Chief Lt Gen Roberto Viola.

"General Vaquero called me," he answered. "I could not talk with him because I was resting, but I certainly am the commander of the III Corps."

Among other questions, he was asked whether "these problems you have just pointed out have become more acute since General Viola became commander in chief of the army, or have they been dragging on since March 1976?"

General Menendez indicated that "your question is difficult because it is difficult to think back about a 3-year process to establish when it [the crisis] became more acute."

He added, "All I can talk about are recent times, when the war with subversion was over in a general manner, and we began to take care of the great problems, foreign policy situations, productivity growth, the reduction of inflation, the amendment of civil laws, the adjustment of union laws, which had acquired a disproportionate influence in our civic life; about the return to the unions of union power, but nothing more than that; when we tried to see what we had to do about education and what had been done; when subversives who had been fired for their activities began to be reinstated, had to be reinstated because the courts ordered it; and when, finally, the Supreme Court, for the first time, I repeat, for the first time, in this process changed a revolutionary decision of the revolutionary power."

He stated: "All these are a series of lenient actions which awaken my concern over the future of this process and its chances for attaining its objectives."

The journalists who attended the press conference held by General Menendez could see approximately 3,000 troops in the city of Jesus Maria and preparations being carried out by these troops up to 14 kms away from this city.

VIOLA ISSUES MESSAGE TO ARMED FORCES

PY300445 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0358 GMT 30 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Sep (TELAM)--The army command released a message from its commander, Lt Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola, addressed to army personnel and the national gendarmery at 0030 tonight. The message states:

Message of the army commander to the army and the national gendarmery: The essence of our army rests on two basic pillars. These are: subordination and discipline. Their complete enforcement is the result of an assimilation of ethical values, reflection on the profound meaning of Argentine institutions and the maturity, as men and soldiers, of its members.

The respect for these principles permits the army to completely fulfill its specific missions and the commitment contracted with the nation in the special circumstances it is going through, even with the consciencious sacrifices of its men.

The achievements made until now by the army, in an historic framework characterized by diversity and the complexity of events, have been based on respect for the hierarchy of command and the existence of a unity which goes beyond selfishness and disagreements.

The defense of national sovereignty, both here and abroad, the reason for the existence of our force, has become and is the main task.

To watch over arms in order to provide for the nation and its inhabitants the security to which they are entitled is our permanent concern, as shown by the events which have taken place. We will continue on this path without faltering until we establish for our countrymen a peace which will allow them to live totally free of fear or anguish.

We are committed to a process which aspires to initiate a new historical cycle in the country. Let us aspire to this: that devotion to the nation, respect for the dignity of man, love for liberty and justice, the power of the law and the valor of reason, based on the foundation of the christian faith, will always reign in Argentina. To achieve this one must be generous, supportive, humble and respectful of other persons' opinions.

The style imposed by the process is characterized by the depersonalization of power. Measures have been taken so that this is enforced and a system has been implemented whereby the decisions which are the exclusive responsibility of the commander in chief as head of the army and member of the military junta are based on the advise of the high-ranking commanders of that force.

We have started along a difficult path which must carry us to the full state of law. This means, first, that the republic must have prestigious and effective institutions capable of becoming its vital foundation.

All our actions must have as a final goal the republic's gradual consolidation, and this is achieved through respect for the current institutions and for those which are gradually being established.

The process, despite the difficulties, is consolidating and progressing toward the achievement of its goals, its legitimate goals, because we do not seek anything other than to give true life to the values and principles which we have sustained and defended since the origin of our nation.

We are progressing with the prudence and moderation demanded by the importance of the commitment contracted with our countrymen. We will know how to fulfill our duties.

TELAM REPORTS MENENDEZ TO MEET VIOLA IN BUENOS AIRES

PY300445 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0440 GMT 30 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Sep (TELAM)--In army command circles and in sources linked to the units commanded by Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez, it has been established that General Menendez will travel to this city today, at approximately 0800, to meet with the commander in chief of the army, Lt Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola.

Further on Menendez-Viola Meeting

PY300525 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0500 GMT 30 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Sep (TELAM)--With regard to the announced trip of Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez to the federal capital from Cordoba--in a military airplane--it was reported by various sources of the army command early this morning that the decision was adopted after a long meeting held approximately between 1930 and 2100 last night in a downtown residence in Cordoba owned by a colonel of the army.

The meeting was attended by General Menendez himself along with other officers of the same rank, to whom he explained the reasons for his attitude which were fully analyzed. The same sources indicated that a meeting with the commander in chief of the army, General Viola, was agreed upon. It will be held at army headquarters right after General Menendez' arrival at the metropolitan military airport.

Also, the army sources consulted by TELAM coincided in pointing out that after the meeting, General Menendez will have freedom of action which was expressly guaranteed so that he may return to Cordoba. The airplane bringing General Menendez will leave Pajas Blancas at 0730 today.

Menendez Departs for Buenos Aires

PY301200 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1150 GMT 30 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 30 Sep (NA)--The rebel General Luciano Menendez left the military aviation school at 0805 for Buenos Aires aboard a twin-engine army jet. Rumors had circulated earlier that Menendez had left at 0730. These rumors were denied by an official source who indicated that he left at 0805.

Chasseing Optimistic About Meeting

PY301320 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1244 GMT 30 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Sep (NA)--Former Cordoba Governor Gen Carlos Bernardo Chasseing (ret), has said that "we have to wait for the development of events," and then explained that "everything has been set forth at the level of upright men." He also stated that "the only thing of interest is the good development of the process and the good of the fatherland."

Chasseing made brief remarks to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS shortly after his arrival from Cordoba with Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez.

He said that Menendez was going to meet with army commander Gen Roberto Viola immediately and that the former was going to return "immediately" to Cordoba after the meeting. He also confirmed that the troops loyal to Menendez are still quartered near the town of Jesus Maria in Cordoba.

He finally requested that "no alarm be provoked because the tranquillity of the country and of the army must be maintained and everything will be fine."

Meeting Begins

PY301245 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1234 GMT 30 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Sep (NA)--The deposed commander of III Corps, General Menendez, arrived at army command at 0920. Immediately after his arrival he went to where Lt Gen Roberto Viola, the commander in chief of the army, was waiting and they began meeting immediately.

Menendez Gives Up Position

PY301603 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1546 GMT 30 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 30 Sep (NA)--The army command has officially announced that Gen Luciano Menendez has given up his position of ignoring the commander in chief of the army, and that the situation will become normal in the area according to orders to be given by the commander of the III Corps, Gen Jose Vaquero. The text of the communique reads as follows:

Gen Luciano Benjamin Menendez today went to the army command, where he held a meeting with the commander in chief of the army, Gen Roberto Eduardo Viola. As a result of the meeting, the former commander of III Corps has given up his position. After the return of General Menendez to Cordoba today, the situation of the troops will become normal according to orders to be given by the commander of III Corps, Gen Jose Antonio Vaquero.

MENENDEZ SAID TO BE 'RESTING' AT HOME

PY302154 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2130 GMT 30 Sep 79 PY

[Text] Cordoba, 30 Sep (NA)--Maj Gen Luciano Menendez returned from Jesus Maria this afternoon and went to his home in the General Deheza military neighborhood, located in the center of the Cordoba military garrison.

On answering the telephone, a daughter of the former III Corps commander politely stated that the general was resting and that it was his intention not to make any type of statement.

She also indicated that any attempt to obtain an interview would be futile, as Menendez had made this his decision.

On being asked if this decision referred to not making statements at this time or if his attitude would remain the same in the future, Menendez daughter said that her father, in her opinion, would make no statements to the press at any time.

On the other hand, no information has been obtained as to the whereabouts of the former deputy commander of III Corps, Brig Gen Jorge Maradona, but it is believed that he has retired to his home in the General Deheza military neighborhood.

PREPARATIONS FOR ENTRY INTO CANAL ZONE CONTINUE

Royo Message

PA010339 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 30 Sep 79 p-1, C-4 PA

[Passages published in boldface type]

[Text] On the occasion of the entry into the Canal Zone on 1 October, Panamanian President Aristedes Royo said in a message to the people that this event "climaxes the liberation effort of 75 years and that the Panamanian nation is attaining the full realization of its territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty." In another part of the message, he said that "the entry into the territorial sector which for 7 decades has been under foreign jurisdiction will be a civic action which corresponds to a people that has realized its goals, reponsibilities and rights." We hereby print the text of the message.

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TO THE PANAMANIAN NATION

FELLOW COUNTRYMEN: Tomorrow, Monday, 1 October 1979, the Panama Canal treaty and the treaty for the permanent neutrality and for the operation of the Panama Canal will be in effect. This date is a continuation, and leads to the climax, of a series of important events which have marked our nation's formation. On 10 and 28 November 1821 we cut our ties from the Spanish colonial system. On 18 November 1840 we created the isthmian state and attempted our own government which failed after 13 months. On 15 July 1855 we established the Constituent Assembly of the Federal State of Panama placed under the illustrious leadership of Justo Arosemena. Thirty years later it succumbed to a coup d'etat in Bogota. On 3 November 1903 we created the republic under pressing conditions which imposed onerous limitations. Tomorrow, 1 October, concludes a 75-year liberation effort. The Panamanian nation arrives at the full realization of its territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty. This is a day of joy and pride. It is also a time for reflection and good sense. The entry into the territorial sector which for 7 long decades was under foreign jurisdiction will be a civic action worthy of a people that has realized its goals, its responsibilities and rights. All Panamanians united before the future, as were the previous generations in their struggle for national liberation, shall pay homage to our flag which will wave over Ancon Hill as a symbol of Panamanian sovereignty over all our national territory. The new historic era beginning tomorrow will be proof of our capacity to administer that valuable resource which until now has been in foreign hands. It will now be part of the building of a new free, just and worthy nation for all its sons and for all men from other parts of the world who come to live in our nation.

ARISTIDES ROYO, president of the republic.

Planned Diplomatic Offensive

PA301657 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1614 GMT 30 Sep 79 PA

[Interview with Panamanian Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores Typaldos at Tocumen International Airport--live]

[Text] [Question] We would like your opinion regarding the 1 October events and also a general explanation on what has happened with the implementation laws and Panama's stand regarding the implementation laws approved by the U.S. House of Representatives.

[Answer] Tomorrow is definitely a day of great importance in our country's history. Regarding the implementation laws approved recently by the House of Representatives, it is evident that there are several points which violate the letter and spirit of the Torrijos-Carter treaties and, as I have said before, we will wait for a more opportune moment in U.S. domestic politics before starting a diplomatic offensive to eliminate those points which have been left pending and which are in definite violation of the treaties. They not only violate the treaties but offend the dignity of Panamanians.

[Question] What would be Panama's stand? Will it be one of bilateral negotiations with the United States or will we denounce the matter before an international organization?

[Answer] No, no. We would resort to bilateral negotiations as we have usually done, with the support and solidarity of the countries of this hemisphere, the nonalined movement and the world.

[Question] A few hours before 1 October, we want to ask you for a message on this patriotic network to all Panamanians on the foreign minister's position regarding the 1 October events.

[Answer] The message would be to bear in mind that tomorrow's event is not that of a government or a party. It is a Panamanian event and I believe that based on this, all Panamanians should be present at the massive rally to be held at Albrook Field at 1100 [as heard]. Thank you.

Unified Entry Urged

PA290438 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2037 GMT 28 Sep 79 PA

[Euclides Fuentes Arroyo interview with Dr Hugo Spadafora, former commander of Panamanian Victoriano Lorenzo Volunteer Brigade which fought in Nicaragua, in Panama City on 28 September--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Dr Spadafora, can you tell us over this great patriotic network your view on the significance of the ceremony that will be held in Albrook on 1 October?

[Answer] Following the dictates of my conscience I will be present in the ceremony of the long-awaited entry into the Canal Zone. I truly believe that this entry into the Canal Zone begins an important phase for our nation. I believe that this is an extremely important and great step toward our country's total national and social liberation. I know that many Panamanians do not share this view. Many Panamanians, including distinguished intellectuals, believe that the new treaties are not good enough for one to be making the aforementioned statements. There are some who believe that the treaties are a betrayal. I understand that in politics there are different opinions but the fact that heroic peoples, through their heroic leaders, such as those of Vietnam, Cuba and Nicaragua, publicly recognize the importance and the positive aspects of the treaties calms the conscience of the Panamanian revolutionaries to a certain extent. These peoples really know what imperialism is and they know about the armed struggle to liberate themselves from imperialism.

I have personally come back more pacifist than ever. I was a pacifist before the war in Nicaragua. But I have come back an even greater pacifist because I experienced another war besides the one I had already known in Africa. The revolutionary and witting men who know what a war is are really pacifists; they are peaceful men. Therefore, these people know the meaning of the effort to achieve a peaceful solution of problems; they know what an armed struggle means when the path for peaceful solution is closed. They know that to achieve what we have achieved through the treaties is a great step.

I do want to point out that these treaties and the entry in the Canal Zone are not the end--in the year 2000 or whatever the year. No, they are a point of arrival and a point of departure. We the generations who have the duty to push forward the car of progress, have the obligation to struggle with all means in our reach so that these treaties and particularly the black trimmings [arandelas negras] which they have imposed on us are eliminated. I am sure that before the year 2000, we Panamanians will have achieved full recognition of our national rights. I state this while aware that in a few years or in the year 2000 people can ask me why I said such a thing. I am sure that Panama will not reach the year 2000 with some black stains imposed by the Senate, the House of Representatives and so forth.

I want to add something else. It is true that the entry into the Canal Zone and the treaties are a great step forward. But as with any step, it can be badly or well taken. I think that the only way of doing it well is to take this step through national unity which will truly guarantee a balanced political life in our country. I think that the public has heard me on several occasions talk about the need for national unity and understanding between the forces headed by General Torrijos and those of Dr Arnulfo Arias. I believe that without the participation of that opposition, whose leader we must objectively acknowledge is Dr Arnulfo Arias and which perhaps includes up to 50 percent of the Panamanian masses--without their participation--this step of totally recovering our sovereignty over the Canal Zone will not bear the fruits that we, the revolutionaries, would like to see. I am optimistic in this regard. I am sure that these two leaders of our people are aware of the great historic duty they have toward our people. I am convinced that sooner or later they will be able to achieve an atmosphere to make this national unity possible and then Panama will say "present" with a loud voice and capital letters in the community of nations regarding the great role we will play because of the canal.

ROYO TO CURTAIL VISIT TO NEW YORK

PA281921 Paris AFP in Spanish 0406 GMT 28 Sep 79 PA

[Text] Panama City, 27 Sep (AFP)--Beset by problems at home, Panamanian President Aristides Royo today decided to shorten his scheduled visit to New York in early October to 30 hours or so. Royo will deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly.

The original plan called for Royo to travel to New York on 2 October and return on 7 October. He was to carry a group of advisers, and a large number of newsmen were to go along in a government plane.

Tonight, however, Royo announced that he would go to New York on 3 October with a very small retinue and he would return to Panama right after his speech.

In his speech Royo is expected to denounce the violations of the Canal treaty contained in the U.S. implementing legislation and to ask the nations of the world to subscribe to the canal neutrality treaty which is being kept at the OAS in Washington. Royo said: We will return immediately. We have many things to do related to entry into the Canal Zone and to the doctors and the teachers strike. The special plane for the newsmen was canceled.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO EL SALVADOR--The Panamanian Foreign Ministry reported today that David Manuel Pere Ramos has been appointed ambassador to El Salvador. [Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Sep 79 PA]

NICARAGUA

PLOT AGAINST SANDINIST LEADERS UNCOVERED

PA291642 Paris AFP in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Sep 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 29 Sep (AFP)--Plans for an attempt against the life of the military leaders of the Sandinist revolution have been discovered, it was officially reported here today. At the same time, it was reported that armed groups staged many attacks Friday night against Sandinist army posts in Chinandega. Four Somozist prisoners died when militiamen at the jail in Chinandega tried to prevent an escape which was partially successful. Armed militiamen visited parts of Chinandega, ordering the population to remain at home.

Meanwhile, it was reported that a group of Sandinist militiamen was attacked at a farm near Chinandega. Another attack was staged against the town's airport. The attacks have been attributed to elements of Somoza's dissolved army bent on attracting the attention of the militiamen to support the escape by the prisoners. It was confirmed that a large number of prisoners managed to escape.

Commanders Carlos Nunez, Luis Carrion and Tomas Borge said in a televised news conference that they know attempts are being planned against them. They added, however, that they have always been prepared to die for the revolution. Referring to the leaders, Nunez said the assassination of any of them would only serve to rapidly radicalize the Sandinist revolution.

JUNTA LEADERS ADDRESS UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Ortega Speech

PA281729 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1448 GMT 28 Sep 79 PA

[Speech by Daniel Ortega Saavedra, member of the junta of the Nicaraguan Government of National Reconstruction, at the UN General Assembly--live]

[Text] I appreciate the opportunity to be here. I salute the president of the assembly, representative Salim Ahmad Salim, and also wish to acknowledge the efforts made on behalf of the Nicaraguan people by Mr Kurt Waluheim. For 31 years Somozism usurped Nicaragua's representation in the United Nations. For 31 years intervention spoke through Somoza's boots and Somozists in this assembly. For 31 years the representatives who walked through these halls and spoke at these forums on behalf of Nicaraguans offended the conscience of the peoples. In 1948 Somoza and the Somozist guard, both products of intervention, became members of the United Nations. On 19 July 1979 the Nicaraguan people became members of the United Nations. For 31 years Somozism found support in this assembly from those representatives who were enemies of their peoples.

The victory of the Sandinist peoples' revolution in Nicaragua brought an end to the unjust positions, the capitulationist attitudes, the interventionist policy, crimes, tortures, robbery, genocide, and exploitation the Somozist dictatorship represented and which was defended by Somoza's accomplices. The Sandinist victory also achieved a modest but resounding victory for those peoples who have struggled for national liberation, the peoples who have struggled for true democracy, the peoples who have struggled for peace. And, just like Somoza found accomplices in the United Nations, the peoples of Nicaragua had brothers in the United Nations.

We wish to salute with our victory the representatives of the revolutionary governments, of progressive governments, of democratic governments who stood alongside the Nicaraguan peoples.

The war waged in Nicaragua was a war of liberation. In our country the suffering people, led by the Sandinist National Liberation Front, defeated in an unequal battle the occupation forces that U.S. intervention had left behind after assassinating Sandino. In Nicaragua we always viewed Somoza and his so-called National Guard as the manifestation of foreign aggression. Only in this way can one understand the great unity of the peoples and understand the barbarities of Somozism.

The Somozist dictatorship was unparalleled in Latin America. A criminal who is capable of bombing schools, hospitals, entire cities, killing women, children and old persons, burning and looting the country, can only be a foreigner--better yet, a mercenary. And Somoza was a faithful follower of the misdeeds of (Ruben Walter), that U.S. southern filibuster who in (?1957), after burning the city of Granada in our country, left behind a sign which read: Here was Granada [in English].

We have said, and we reiterate, that Somozism left our country in economic bankruptcy, among other things. At this moment we will not try to call attention with figures to the losses caused by the bombing by the dictatorship, or to our country's payment incapacity or to its foreign debt and so forth. But we feel duty bound to demand energetically unconditional support for the reconstruction of Nicaragua.

The peoples in Africa, Asia and in Latin America who were subjected to slavery, by the large, civilized countries have been breaking this domination at the cost of immense sacrifices. Men have been declared free worldwide and independence and sovereignty has been declared in most countries of the world. But other forms of more subtle domination have taken the place of the bonds of servitude.

The world market, the international finance organizations, banks--these are instruments of political persuasion and economic subjection. We know that Somozism was the most faithful representative of those foreign interests in our country. Somozism chained the economy of our country. Somozism facilitated the looting of our natural resources. Somozism assumed debts with international banks on behalf of Nicaragua.

But are we to blame Somozism alone? Is it not advisable to ask who is more responsible? Whether it was Somoza, who engaged in debts, investments, loans, and so forth for the benefit of his own enrichment, or those who facilitated those investments, those loans, those sums?

In 1972 an earthquake devastated our country. The losses were immense and international aid poured in promptly. It was a secret to no one that the dictator and his civilian and military cohorts distributed the food and financial assistance among themselves. This was more than enough to condemn the dictatorship to not receiving one more cent. But other interests prevailed, and the reasons of economic and subjection were more powerful than those of justice and morality.

In the past 2 years of the dictatorship, world repudiation intensified. In the past 2 years the dictatorship increased its criminality. In the past 2 years the dictator and his accomplices plundered shamelessly. In the past 2 years the loans, credits with international banks, drawn up for long terms and at high interest rates, were redoubled to the extent that the Nicaraguan people would have to pay approximately $600 million. And Nicaragua cannot pay that debt. Nor will it acquire new debts to pay that debt.

Somoza and his accomplices have in bank accounts and investments outside our country the money that they obtained from international banks, the money they stole from the people. Somoza and his accomplices should be sued by the creditors of Nicaragua. It is our opinion that the foreign debt left by Somozism to Nicaragua should be assumed internationally, above all by the developed countries, by economically powerful countries and, first of all by the countries which traditionally nourished Somozism. Therefore, the people of Nicaragua propose such an idea to this UN assembly.

As we have said, our struggle is one of national liberation and finds itself at the stage of national reconstruction. This has made it the target of imperialist policy. The most aggressive sectors of the United States and Central America dream of reinstating Somozism in our country. A macabre alliance is attempting to influence opinion against us, to create the opinion that Sandinism is a threat to the Salvadoran Government.

Now we are told that the problems of El Salvador--the killing of peasants, workers and priests in El Salvador--are being provoked by Nicaragua. Some U.S. representatives claim to have been informed by the Salvadoran Government and by Salvadoran businessmen and industrialists that the Sandinists have begun operations in that country to provoke its overthrow. Senator Stone, for example, affirms this and comes out in defense of Salvadoran democracy. He says he is going to ask the U.S. Government to exercise more vigilance over Nicaragua. We view all this as a provocation--a provocation to justify economic, political and even military pressure on Nicaragua.

We Nicaraguans cannot stop the rejoicing of the Salvadorans over our victory; we Nicaraguans cannot stop our example from causing concern to the well-known criminals of Latin America. But along with this we have instituted a policy aimed at normalizing our relations with all governments of the world within a framework of equality and mutual respect.

In quest of our total political and economic emancipation we decided to join the nonalined movement. At the nonalined summit in Havana we defined our international position. We share the idea of the unity of the weak, and just as the triumph of our revolution has been shared with the free countries and those nonliberated countries struggling to break the bonds, today we also consider the implementation of the treaties restoring Panama's sovereignty over the Canal Zone as a victory for our peoples--but above all a victory of the Panamanians who had vowed to enter the canal on 1 October of this year at any cost.

At this moment we recall the victory of the peoples of Latin America when at the 17th OAS Consultative Meeting the imperialist moves to intervene in Nicaragua were defeated.

Today the news is about arrests in Puerto Rico. They arrest priests, lawyers and politicians. The human rights of the Puerto Ricans are violated by the U.S. military bases on Vieques Island and by nonrecognition of their inalienable right to independence, the right of Puerto Rico. Let us see how many senators who go around worrying about the fate of the Somozist guards and about the security of the Salvadoran Government will protest over the violation of the human rights of the Puerto Ricans. We voice our protest at the increasing repression unleashed against the Puerto Rican patriots.

In our struggle for peace and independence, we support Bolivia in its struggle to achieve a sea outlet. We support the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, SWAPO [South West African Peoples Organization], the POLISARIO Front and the PLO. Nicaragua stresses its historic solidarity with the suffering, heroic, militant Palestinian people. We support, as we said, the PLO, the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and all these other organizations as the legitimate representatives of peoples struggling for their liberty and independence.

We also feel morally dutybound to support the people of Belize in their struggle for independence, the peoples of Korea in their efforts at reunification and the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from South Korea. At the nonalined meeting we expressed our repudiation of the genocidal Pol Pot group which, like Somoza, was the product of foreign intervention. As such, he was used at a given moment as a spearhead to attack the heroic Vietnamese people.

Who does not know that the criminal regime of Pol Pot and his cohorts was the product of the expansionist attitude of the Chinese leaders? Is it not that brutal, cowardly expansionism which has caused the crisis in Southeast Asia? Chinese troops have attacked Vietnam and continue to threaten it. But the spirit of the Vietnamese people has been stronger than the bullying attitude of the Chinese divisions. We repudiate the means by which a representative of so-called Democratic Kampuchea, which is tantamount to saying genocide, can usurp a seat in this assembly. Those who voted for this representation actually supported the expansionist attitude of the Chinese leaders who are allied in international forums with the most reactionary sectors and with the most criminal sectors of the world.

Nicaragua, a small country and independent country, which honors its nonalinement, identifies with the heroic people of Vietnam. We are struggling and will continue struggling with the peoples and for the oppressed peoples of the world. We are struggling and we will continue struggling for the progress of our peoples, for the defense of our revolution and for a just peace, which is a peace of sovereign peoples, and for a true peace, which is the peace of free countries. Thank you.

Ramirez Mercado Speech

PA281807 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0145 GMT 28 Sep 79 PA

[Speech by Sergio Ramirez, member of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, at a meeting in New York of the Economic Commission for Latin America; date not given--recorded]

[Excerpts] The credits, which never arrived but were funneled directly to bank accounts abroad--and these type of credits definitely exist--will not be paid either. The Nicaraguan Government is thoroughly analyzing its entire foreign debt in order to inform our people as to which debts were contracted in conformity with the country's laws and when and how we will pay them. Many of these loans were used to extract huge sums of foreign currency from the country and to create a serious problem concerning the possibilities of establishing a new [word indistinct] of national economic development that will take in account the people's interests.

We are dealing with a foreign debt which perhaps, like few in Latin American history, has a well-defined political nature. It is (?outside) the usual international financing framework and is, to a great extent, the responsibility of the international community.

In order to confront it, in order to assume responsibility for its payment, Nicaragua will require a substantial grace period for the payment of interests and capital. Nicaragua will require a global rate of interest with high [word indistinct] rate.

Meanwhile, the country will begin a clear-cut policy of austerity and [word indistinct] beginning with the example of the government itself to avoid imports not strictly essential to the emergency and to the reconstruction process.

Nicaragua will develop an education and propaganda policy that will tend to change the trends for [words indistinct] in sectors which so far have enjoyed an unrestricted availability of foreign currency to [words indistinct] consumer system alien to our national reality.

With this policy, Nicaragua does not intend to develop its economic policy based on a disproportionate growth of its foreign debt which will only make us more dependent and less sovereign. On the contrary, we believe the new financial commitments we may have to acquire should not only be moderate and carefully rationalized but must also have a complementary counterpart in the domestic productive effort. We shall never enter into more debts to pay our debts. We know that foreign debts are not only a result of foreign financing, but that they are also a mechanism to control our country's economy and technology.

Irresponsible indebtedness brings, as a result, a curtailing of states' sovereignty subordinating them to international financial organizations. A development sustained with foreign resources is a fictitious development that implies a necessary neglect of the popular sectors. It would mean continuation of the Somozist policy of submission of the workers and peasants and neglect of their basic needs. We want our people to decide on the economic model they will follow, and we will never allow any international financial organization to impose the rules we must follow.

As we have said on previous occasions, Nicaragua, during its first year of reconstruction, will need generous and unconditioned aid from the world community. We feel we have a right to this cooperation and to indicate its nature. We believe that the international community must give us a positive answer. Our people with its sacrifices and blood have won this right.

We ask the governments to make deposits in foreign currency in their accounts in our central bank. We ask them to pressure the credit banking institutions in their country to accept negotiations for global reforms for the restructuring of the domestic [word indistinct]. Finally, we ask the governments for preferential trade treatment for Nicaraguan goods.

We intend to act within the Latin American Economic System [LAES] and the Group of 77. We are going to actively join the UN Conference on Trade and Development and the Social and Economic Council. We give special importance to compliance with the economic rights and duties of states and to the application of codes of conduct for transnationals, the transfer of technology and the international maritime conferences. We support the right of a 200-mile limit for the exploitation of maritime resources.

ORTEGA SCORES REACTION, CALLS FOR UNITY

PA300018 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2052 GMT 29 Sep 79 PA

[Speech by Sandinist People's Army Commander in Chief Cmdr Humberto Ortega Saavedra at graduation ceremony of 1st Armored Battalion Ulies Tapia Roa at German Pomares Ordonez Military Complex in Managua--live]

[Text] Companero fighters, Companero Commander of the Revolution Luis Carrion, Companero Chief of Staff Joaquin Cuadra, Companero Armored Unit Chief Javier Picardo, brother relatives present in this simple but significant and historic ceremony which we Sandinists are holding today in what formerly was tyrant Somoza's school.

Although our Sandinist soldiers are able to withstand inclement weather, rain and other hardships, we are not going to impose upon you so we will be brief this afternoon.

First of all we want to express our recognition of all you Sandinist soldiers who make up this first unit of tank crews. Our National Directorate, top leadership body of the Sandinist people's revolution, recognizes you. We also want to express the recognition of the Sandinist People's Army command and, in general, of the entire army to you, who with effort and dedication, were able to overcome the many difficulties of a revolutionary process which was begun in very complex situation. You have advanced to the successful completion of your course.

We also want to mention the companero teachers who with dedication have made it possible for you to obtain this instruction which is so necessary for the defense of our fatherland and our revolution. We also want to voice our recognition of the companeros administrators of the unit, the most humble of them, the companeros in the kitchens and those doing maintenance work, who made the conclusion of this course possible.

Our strength does not solely lie in the knowledge of technology or in the knowledge of handling weapons which is gradually increasing. Our main strength lies in the revolutionary conscience, in Sandinist conscience, in our links with the most humble people--particularly with those people, those peasants and workers who, with their sweat, make our society's material wealth possible. With the close links with these people we should forge a Sandinist conscience, a revolutionary conscience, an ironclad conviction to defend this people, to defend this revolution, to defend Augusto Cesar Sandino's fatherland. That is the main force which should support our army and our soldiers. Weapons are nothing more than instruments which make more effective our fundamental strengths. These strengths are based on the conscience of each one of us, who more than great handlers of weapons and technology must be great defenders of the people and be deeply aware of the militant history and revolutionary traditions of our people as well as of the other peoples of the world who struggle against imperialism and reaction.

The revolutionary process has many enemies. We should have the best and greatest combative determination to confront the enemy who dares attack us, whether from abroad or from inside the country. But that is not the main enemy. The most dangerous enemy is the one that cannot be seen. It is the enemy who causes confusion. It is the provocation from the shadows. It is the provocation carried out by traitorous bourgeois reaction, imperialism and the most reactionary sectors which make use of the freedoms this revolution has given everyone to confuse our people. This provocation is particularly aimed at deceiving our people in the most backward sectors who were victims of the cruel Somozist oppression and domination and the cruel exploitation and oppression suffered for more than 150 years from the Yankee foreigner. By exploiting this situation and the ignorance of our people, the provocateurs of the right, of the traitorous bourgeois reaction, of the so-called Social Democrats and others, are trying to create confusion among those sectors to turn them against the vanguard of the revolution, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN].

Therefore, those provocations cannot be allowed to penetrate our ranks. In order that they do not penetrate, we must daily carry out the study and the fraternal, critical and self-critical discussion of our process and our reality and promote mutual support among those who know more with those who know less. We must raise political awareness, teach political culture and the elements necessary to gradually build a political wall, a wall of revolutionary conscience so that ideological diversionism and reactionary provocation will not subvert any of our men.

This is a permanent task. To the extent that our army is gradually organized, it will be making the presence of the political and cultural section felt. It is the instrument through which our army will fulfill the orientations of our vanguard, the Sandinist front and its leadership, the National Directorate, in order to transmit the political line and the political [word indistinct] among our militants, our Sandinist soldiers.

We should also be prepared so that we will not be confused by the provocations of the other reaction, the reaction which calls itself ultrarevolutionary, which calls itself leftwing ultrarevolutionary, the so-called MILPAS [Anti-Somozist People's Militias], Workers Front and others. It is trying to snatch away the hegemony which with so much blood and effort our people placed in their vanguard, the FSLN. Our army should particularly make a double or triple effort so that those provocations will not be successful.

We want to state today that we feel satisfied over the unselfish, dedicated and enthusiastic way that you have faced the difficulties and have fulfilled the demands which the revolution has made on you. Therefore, our people should be confident because we have more than a handful of men who know how to handle weapons and we have a handful of men who will defend their people even with a few weapons or none at all as we did yesterday to overthrow the tyrant Somoza.

This is our view of our soldiers. We should continue to train ourselves technically but we should continue to increase our efforts to achieve a greater awareness. Together with our people, the mass organizations, the children, women, the elderly, and all our people, let us crush the provocations which the traitorous bourgeois reaction, imperialism and the other reactionaries try to carry out against this revolution. We are going to confront those provocations and we are going to be firm against those adventurers who have already dared from the shadows to treacherously fire on some of our militia members, some of whom have shed their blood. In the face of them, we should be firm and not only crush them with our force but crush them with the strength of a revolutionary conscience which will strengthen physical force and be made truly invincible. Therefore, the maneuvers will not be successful. Let us crush the Somozist enemy. Long live the Sandinist people's revolution! Army, people, unity! Free fatherland [shouts of "or death"] Fatherland or death! [shouts of "We shall win"]

LABOR MINISTER GODOY SPEAKS ON SOMOZA, FOREIGN AID

PA301612 Paris AFP in Spanish 2311 GMT 27 Sep 79 PA

[By Jacques Kaufmann]

[Text] Medellin, Colombia, 27 Sep (AFP)--Nicaraguan Labor Minister Virgilio Godoy today announced that his government will demand the extradition of former dictator Anastasio Somoza from any country. He also stressed the unity of his government.

The minister, who is participating in the 11th Regional Conference of the ILO in Medellin, said that Somoza should be tried in Nicaragua and added that his government plans to take the legal steps necessary to obtain his extradition.

In statements to the newspaper EL COLOMBIANO of Medellin, in northwestern Colombia, the Nicaraguan minister said that there is perfect understanding between the two wings of the government and very close cooperation among all members of the reconstruction junta.

The situation, he stressed, continues to be homogeneous as far as the leadership of the reconstruction process is concerned. Virgilio Godoy indicated that so far the Soviet Union has made relatively small donations to Nicaragua, unlike Cuba, which has cooperated greatly by providing technical cooperation and social assistance, particultarly through medical brigades. The minister said that Cuban teachers will arrive soon in Nicaragua to participate in a literacy campaign. He also said that foreign aid will be used for priority development tasks. We are not thinking of luxury projects, he added.

One of Nicaragua's main problems is unemployment which affects 60 percent of the labor force. Regarding this, Godoy said that his government seeks recovery in the private business sector so it can provide jobs for the largest number possible of unemployed persons.

Regarding the labor field, the minister said that it is preferable that reforms stem from the needs that arise from day to day. The work of a cabinet, he added, can sometimes be out of touch with the country's situation. The Sandinist victory in Nicaragua was emphasized today at the 11th ILO Regional Conference. There were also harsh attacks against the military regimes of the Southern Cone. Tulio Cuevas, president of the Conservative Union of Workers of Colombia (UTC), said that the organization will condemn the military governments of South America for their clear violation of human rights.

BORGE INTERVIEWED ON PRESS FREEDOM, SOMOZISTS, PANAMA CANAL

PA291350 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Sep 79 PA

[News conference held by Nicaraguan Interior Minister Tomas Borge 24 September 1979; place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Borge] [In progress when broadcast begins]... political positions. Like the Institutional Revolutionary Party in Mexico, here we cannot say we are Sandinists if we are (?not) really Sandinists. I cannot understand the confusion; we are Sandinists and will continue to be Sandinists. Sandinism is a whole political and ideological context.

[Question] I (?register) certain concerns. As I said, I like to (?discuss) situations aired at the level of the press, television and (?expression of thought). (?At this) moment, (?it) is freely circulating in Nicaragua. I would like to tell you the following: For example, there is a degree of apprehension--and do not tell me this is a Somozist theory--about communism because it is believed that Nicaragua may become a radical communist country. This is precisely the reason for my question, which has motivated...

[Answer--interrputing] Why not say that anticommunism is a Somozist philosophy? Why not say so if it is actually so? Anticommunism has been Somoza's banner in Nicaragua, and the anticommunist banner is the banner of the Somozists. That we will indeed repeat, because a Sandinist revolution will not fall into the trap of anticommunism. It is a trap, a discredited, dirty, repulsive banner which has been used to assassinate thousands and thousands of Nicaraguans.

[Question] We agree. However, a democrat, for instance, may engage in a confrontation [words indistinct] of a political type at the level of democratic [word indistinct]. That is the game I am talking about, not that of the Somozas.

[Answer] I cannot understand you. Do you mean can Marxists and non-Marxists engage in ideological confrontations? Of course they can. (?This is) a country where all ideological confrontations are allowed because we have talked about political pluralism, and here there will be political organizations of various stripes.

[Question] Can Nicaragua become a communist country?

[Answer] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] does not plan to stick a label on the Nicaraguan revolution.

[Question] There is talk that the United States is trying to obtain prior condemnation of the repressive Salvadoran regime at the upcoming OAS meeting. What would be Nicaragua's attitude at the OAS if this happens?

[Answer] If there is an initiative, on whose part did you say?

[Question] The United States.

[Answer] We would probably endorse the U.S. position in this specific case.

[Question] Is there any problem with the ultraleft?

[Answer] There are many problems with those idiots. [laughter] Here the Nicaraguan revolution [words indistinct] as required by circumstances each moment. These elements, objectively speaking, are being manipulated by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, which has sent people from various parts of the world to infiltrate the Nicaraguan revolution. They arrive in Nicaragua disguised as Trotskyites. Therefore, half of those elements are foreign agents who come to our country to disrupt public order and sow division in Nicaragua's revolution. These elements will be unmasked politically and if we find it necessary to exercise revolutionary repression against them we will do so.

[Question] Are they ultraradicals?

[Answer] They are ultraleftists who have objectively become allied in practice with this country's most reactionary sectors, with the ultraright and the unpatriotic bourgeoisie. [break in recording]

[Announcer] Borge will now answer a question about fighting between Sandinist guerrillas and elements of the National Guard [word indistinct] of the Somozist guard on the north.

[Resume recording] [Question] Don't you have any information on that?

[Answer] There have been skirmishes. For instance, a group of militiamen was ambushed yesterday and one was killed.

[Question] Where? [words indistinct]

[Answer] In Managua.

[Question] Have several properties been seized under the [word indistinct] of these ultra-leftist groups in various parts of the country? Did any of these properties belong to non-Somozists?

[Answer] We are going to establish specific channels for the (?classification) of the properties. Nobody should occupy property in Nicaragua except government bodies legally authorized to do so.

[Question] And those which have been occupied at the instigation of these elements?

[Answer] If they belonged to Somozists they will become state property. If they belonged to non-Somozist private citizens they will be returned to their owners.

[Question] To what degree has the CIA infiltrated Nicaragua?

[Answer] We do not yet have sufficient levels of intelligence to be able to gage or to set parameters about infiltration by foreign intelligence bodies. However, we suppose, we have some inkling, that many countries have established their own intelligence services here in Nicaragua.

[Question] What is the status of prisoners in the country?

[Answer] We are going to create a national prison service. Companero Francisco de Asis Fernandez is in charge of this. He will take steps immediately. He is already setting up the necessary structures to create modern jails to try to rehabilitate prisoners.

[Question] Who is going to be in these jails?

[Answer] We are temporarily going to move some prisoners to the industrial free zone and we are going to install a modern penitentiary with the most advanced facilities to house our country's political prisoners there.

[Question] We have learned that you are personally conducting the investigation of the Chamorro case. What can you tell us about this?

[Answer] It is true. I will not release any information on the case yet, but we have already solved it.

[Question] How so? [words indistinct] a Dominican, a Dominican woman and a group that worked with Trujillo. Is there anything on that?

[Answer] No, no. We will explain at the proper time what has been achieved in the investigation in this case. We can say, however, that Anastasio Somoza Portocarrero was directly involved in the murder.

[Question] Can you tell us if in reality--as suggested--the U.S. CIA is involved?

[Answer] There is no evidence of that in the case [words indistinct].

[Question] Is it true that the General Staff of the Sandinist army has been meeting for the last few hours? If so, what is it dealing with?

[Answer] As a matter of fact, you are holding me up because they are waiting for me to meet with them. However, I do not know yet what they are discussing because I have not gone to the meeting. [passage indistinct]

[Question] What will be the FSLN's attitude if the United States refuses to turn over the canal?

[Answer] Of course we are in solidarity with the Panamanian Government and people in regard to the struggle to recover Panama's national sovereignty over the Canal Zone. [End recording]

FSLN ASSEMBLY REAFFIRMS SANDINIST UNITY

PA010118 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Sep 79 p-1, 10 PA

[Passages published in boldface type]

[Text] The problems and needs presented by national reconstruction and the tasks to be promoted in order to fulfill our people's expectations of change and progress, especially in the production and public service areas, were discussed for 3 days by the leaders and secondary officials of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN].

At the "First National Assembly of the FSLN, RIGOBERTO LOPEZ PEREZ", held on 21, 22 and 23 September, its members with primary political responsibility analyzed the general outlines that will guide the FSLN domestic reorganization process.

At this same assembly it was reasserted that the SANDINIST UNITY is an indisputable guarantee of the people's victory. The proposal presented by the work commission to eliminate the word JOINT from our highest leadership organization was approved by clamorous shouting and prolonged applause.

That is to say that as of this historic assembly our highest leadership organization will be called NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF THE SANDINIST LIBERATION FRONT.

Total and indisputable support was also reasserted at the assembly for our MAIN LEADERS OF THE SANDINIST PEOPLE'S REVOLUTION whose greatest expression exists in the membership of the National Directorate.

At the "First National Assembly of the FSLN, RIGOBERTO LOPEZ PEREZ, it was agreed to grant greater flexibility in the organization process in order to bring into the FSLN the thousands and thousands of Nicaraguans who fought against the dictatorship, who today continue to be committed to the Sandinist people's revolution and who are participating in the national reconstruction tasks.

The membership process is being regulated so that the best sons of our Sandinist people have the opportunity and honor of belonging to our glorious SANDINIST NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT.

The assembly also reaffirmed its commitment to the NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM, its emphatic support for the efforts of the JUNTA OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION and its members.

The historic meeting was opened to the strains of our national anthem. Revolutionary Cmdr Victor Tirado Lopez opened the meeting. A minute of silence was observed for all the heroes and martyrs in the struggle of our unbeatable people against the Somozist tyranny. The event was adjourned with the strains of our fighting FSLN anthem.

The meeting was attended by revolutionary commanders and members of the National Directorate, Tomas Borge, Daniel Ortega, Henry Ruiz, Humberto Ortega, Jaime Wheelock, Bayardo Arce, Carlos Nunez and Luis Carrion.

CASTRO COMMENTS TO NEWSMEN ON PRESENCE OF SOVIET TROOPS

FL301342 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0040 GMT 30 Sep 79 FL

[Press conference held by President Fidel Castro with invited U.S. newsmen and representatives of the foreign press accredited to Cuba, on 28 September in Havana; questions in English with consecutive Spanish translation and answers in Spanish with consecutive English translation; questioners not identified--recorded]

[Text] [Castro] I would like to thank you all for your kindness in participating in this conference. I am very sorry to have bothered you and am perhaps spoiling the weekend of you journalists. I am not planning to make an initial statement, but am willing to answer any of your questions.

[Question] Mr President, what exactly is the Soviet brigade doing in Cuba? Is it training Cubans or does it have a combat role?

[Answer] You are asserting that we have a Soviet brigade. I am not planning to make clarifications on that because it is a matter of principle. I do not feel obliged whatsoever to give any type of explanation to the United States concerning our military installations and the measures we take for our defense. I cannot lower myself to that because I do not give the united States any privilege concerning our country, or any jurisdiction or authorization. We consider ourselves to be a sovereign country, as sovereign as the United States. Any clarification I might make to the United States in this regard would imply that we are giving up our rights to adopt the measures we deem necessary for our defense and to have all the installations we deem necessary. Therefore I believe this is not the fundamental issue. You call it a brigade; we call it a training center. That is not the fundamental problem. Our right cannot be questioned or even discussed, and that is our position.

[Question] Mr President, President Carter, according to reports in the United States, will address the U.S. people on Sunday [as heard]. According to reports, he will state that because of U.S. evidence of a Russian "combat force in Cuba," the United States will in turn increase U.S. troops at unspecified places in different parts of the world. What is your answer to this?

[Answer] Listen, I am very glad that Carter will speak on Sunday. I want to ask Carter some questions. I do not know if he will be kind enough to answer them, but I think that he has an obligation to give an explanation to the U.S. people. The essential question is this: How long has this alleged brigade been in Cuba? I think that is they key to the issue, and not whether they are greyhounds or hounds. How long? It is in this regard that I want to make a definitive, categorical and emphatic statement.

That which you call a brigade and which we call a training center has been in Cuba for the past 17 years. That military installation was created at the end of the October 1962 crisis in line with the spirit of the agreements of October 1962 and within the status quo established as a result of the October crisis.

All successive U.S. presidents knew about this fact, this installation. The CIA knew about the installation; President Kennedy knew about it; Johnson knew about it; Nixon knew about it; Ford knew about it; and Carter necessarily has to know about it. There was no public discussion about that installation but it was not a secret. I ask Carter: Was this installation created in 1976 in Ford's time or was it created in 1970 in Nixon's time; was it created in 1965 in Johnson's time or was it created at the end of October after the October crisis? That is what I want to ask Carter. And I want to ask if it is possible for someone to believe that this installation could exist for 17 years without the CIA being aware of it.

This country has constantly been overflown by U-2 planes, been subjected to constant electronic espionage and has been the target of espionage by hundreds of CIA agents. Who are they trying to convince that no one knew anything--that the CIA did not know, that Kennedy did not know anything, that Johnson did not know anything, that Nixon did not know anything, that Ford did not know anything, and that Carter did not know? I ask myself, why have they now raised this problem about an installation that is 17 years old? Why now? Why were the files on this not used before to create a problem? Now an artificial problem has been created by searching for data in the files. I ask Carter this question--I believe the journalists should ask him--what do the U.S. intelligence files say and how is it possible that with so many spies, so many planes and so many agents they did not learn of the existence of that installation for 17 years? This is what Carter must answer, and then we can ask him why he has brought up this problem now to create this crisis. The fact that Carter's reelection is in a crisis does not give him the right to threaten peace. I think that Carter's action regarding this problem has been dishonest, insincere and immoral, and he is deceiving world and U.S. public opinion by making people believe that the Cubans and the Soviets have taken a new step, an irresponsible step, that we have created a problem and that we have changed the status quo existing since the October 1962 crisis. I emphatically and categorically state that this is a lie, that this is dishonest, and that this is insincere and immoral.

[Question] Should the American public be frightened or angry by the presence of this training center? Should they be?

[Answer] I do not see any logic or anything to be concerned about. We do not have nuclear arms. We do not have strategic weapons. We do not constitute the slightest threat to the United States. I think that the United States should be concerned with the unleashing of an arms race, failure of detente and the SALT agreement not being approved. I believe that these factors should be of concern to U.S. public opinion.

But how can Cuba constitute a danger to the United States in any way? I actually feel this is ridiculous. In any case, the Cuban people should be the ones to be concerned about having a powerful neighbor armed to the teeth with thousands of nuclear weapons, and, in addition, to a neighbor with an irresponsible government.

[Question] Mr President, it appears then that there is a difference of opinion between you and President Carter about the exact nature of this training center or combat brigade. Would you be willing, therefore, to let a group of impartial observers such as U.S. journalists to look it over and judge for themselves?

[Answer] Would the U.S. government allow a group of Cuban newsmen to investigate U.S. military installations--whichever ones we decide, the nuclear research centers and the strategic air command headquarters? That would have to be also requested. Why should we have to subject ourselves to any inspection? Not even during the October crisis, when peace was threatened and not the reelection of a president, not even during the October crisis did we agree to this. I now say that we will never agree to the inspection of our territory. That is a principle, practically a dogma, of our country.

[Question] Mr President, there also appears to be a difference of opinion not over the existence of the troops, but over their functions. I do not believe that the State Department and President Carter have ever said that the troops have not been here for 17 years. Therefore, the charge is that the function and configuration of these troops have perhaps changed and now have a function different from an earlier one.

[Answer] I would like to say the following: In the first place, there has been absolutely no change in the functions or size of that installation. Now, you say that they have not denied that this installation has been in the country for 17 years. But they have not said it either, they have not said it.

If they know it and have not said it, they are deceiving international public opinion and the U.S. public. If they do not know, why do they not say so? Why have they not clarified this point? Why are they trying to present the problem as a step taken by the USSR and Cuba to create an international crisis? Why do they want it to look that way? Why does a military installation that is 17 years old and was accepted by all U.S. administrations have to become a problem and a crisis? Why?

[Question] Mr President, there is also a senatorial election coming up and I think that Senator Church has been here to visit you. He is a member of the Foreign Relations Committee. Was he also aware of the existence of this installation during the talks you held with him?

[Answer] I met with Church here. I talked extensively with him. He made a good personal impression on me. We never discussed these topics at any time. I do not know what happened to Church. I do not know if somebody somehow deceived Church. However, I did not deceive Church at all in any way. Whether Church knew that we had the installation or not, I do not know. But there is no doubt that somebody has deceived Church.

[Question] Is it possible that since both you and the President of the United States seem to be aware that the troops have been here a long time, do you think that there would be any modifications....

[Answer--interrupting] I am not saying the troops, but the military installation to which President Carter is referring as an alleged brigade. I call it a military installation. You call it a brigade. We call it a training center.

[Question] But there are troops from the Soviet Union at that facility? Right?

[Answer] It is a military installation and I have said that in that sense I am not going to make any explanation to the United States.

[Question] Mr President, because of the totally opposing points of view in this regard and because you are both heads of state, would you consider or propose a face-to-face meeting with President Carter to discuss this subject?

[Answer] I would not suggest that. I have a basic sense of dignity. It is clear that a strategy exists in the United States inspired by Brzezinski's theories that Cuba does not exist, that Cuba is a satellite of the Soviet Union, that Cuba has no independent policy and, consequently, that any problem must be discussed with the Soviet Union and not with Cuba. Therefore, it would be indignified on my part to talk about holding a meeting with Carter. You can ask Carter about that, those of you who have the opportunity.

[Question] Mr President, based on this latest episode of Soviet presence in Cuba, how would you characterize the state of current U.S.-Cuban relations?

[Answer] I believe it is an old situation. One should not forget that for the past 20 years we have been under constant U.S. hostility and under a U.S. blockade. Let us not forget that against the will of our people, the United States occupies a strip of our territory and has troops and warships at the Guantanamo naval base. That situation has existed for 20 years now, and, of course, five administrations have passed. Their plots against the revolution have failed. Cuba is no more isolated than before; Cuba is less isolated then ever. The revolution's prestige is not inferior to but much greater than what it was ever before. The campaigns and plots of five presidents against Cuba have been crushed. Perhaps Carter will be the sixth. Then we would have to wait and see if we will have better luck with a seventh U.S. president.

Since we are talking about this and I have mentioned the Guantanamo base, I believe that Carter has neither a legal nor a moral right--and this is the key to the issue--to create this problem. Rather, I believe that Carter's legal and moral duty is to withdraw his troops and dismantle the Guantanamo naval base because it is absolutely illegal and immoral. I believe this is what the United States must do, and not make any type of demands on us without any legal or moral basis.

[Question] Mr President, I would like to go back to what I asked earlier and perhaps clarify something. We have been led to believe by Washington's reports that earlier this year U.S. intelligence sources began to observe a change in the activities of those troops, and that by 17 August those troops began to conduct maneuvers not far from Havana. First of all, I want to be sure of what you said. Are we talking specifically about the same training facility and are you saying that there is no other training center here? Are you saying that the activities at the training center have not changed in 17 years? And, furthermore, are you saying that these maneuvers did not occur?

[Answer] I would like to say this--she continues to insist that I make statements here that I do not wish to make. I can clarify the following in deference to the questioner. The truth of the matter is that the Soviet military personnel providing assistance to our armed forces--the personnel are rotated--are approximately the same in number as 17 years ago; the functions are exactly the same as they were 17 years ago. If this contributes to clarifying your question, I give you this answer gladly.

[Question] Mr President, could I ask for another clarification? You said earlier that you do not have nuclear weapons. Are you saying that you do not have any nuclear arms, for example, the MiG-23 jets? Or nuclear-armed submarines? Can you guarantee to us that you do not have these?

[Answer] That is known to everybody. Everybody knows that we do not have nuclear submarines and that we do not have nuclear weapons. Everybody knows that an agreement was reached in 1962 by the Soviet Union and the United States on that. We are not committed to that agreement because we were not a part to it. That is the simple truth and that is known. We have not renounced any right. But, everybody knows that the agreement exists, that the Soviet Union supplies us with military equipment--the only country that could supply us that type of arms. The Soviet Union has meticulously complied with its commitment. Yes, it has complied rigorously, scrupulously, and meticulously with the so-called October 1962 crisis agreements. That is what I can say about the agreements of which we were not a part and to which we do not feel committed.

[Question] Mr President, may I ask another question with respect to U.S.-Cuban relations? There have been reports and rumors that you will release a number of political prisoners, specifically, Mr Matos. Are you planning to do this and when? Do you think this will then have an impact on the relations with the United States?

[Answer] First of all, this is not a matter of reports or rumors. We have released approximately 3,000 prisoners in line with the agreements with the Cuban community abroad, with representatives of the Cuban community abroad. We will soon release a few hundred more. This process has not gone faster because, as is known, the United States has been very restrictive and has greatly hindered the issuing of visas to these citizens who want to go to the United States. With regard to Hubert Matos, he will soon finish serving his sentence and we will strictly comply with the laws.

[Question] Mr President, getting back to the matter of the training center. One of the difficulties that the North Americans might have had is that they have not been able to understand what need the Cuban troops have for training since they have had much experience. For example, you have had more combat experience than the Soviets in the past 20 years. They do not have much to teach you.

[Answer] That is not true. The Soviets have a great amount of accumulated experience. It was a country that suffered 20 million dead in World War II. They have developed an enormous amount of experience and a large number of cadres. They have developed the military technology we use. They have much more developed academies and they have greater military expertise than we do, independently from the experience we gained in our war, a revolutionary war in the Sierra Maestra, but that was a different type of war. Today war has a different technology. Although we might have gained some experience in recent years, that cannot be compared to military theories and military equipment which are constantly changing and developing. I do not believe that anyone thinks that we have more military experience than the Soviets.

[Question] Mr President, one of the things that seem to concern certain people in the U.S. Government is the situation regarding Cuba in Central America and in the eastern Caribbean. There seems to be some feeling among the U.S. public and in the U.S. Government that Cuba is gaining more military influence in this area and is promoting revolutions there. The Soviet troops issue seems to have caused an uproar. Would you please comment on this?

[Answer] Seventeen years ago, even before, Soviet personnel began working and assisting our armed forces. No one even dreamed then about the Sandinista triumph in 1979. I cannot see the relation between one problem and the other. I believe that no one can deny that we have been extremely careful and extremely discreet, and that we have clearly expressed our wish to avoid conflicts in that area. So no one can deny this.

Yes, we sympathize with the Sandinistas. We have sympathized with them for 17-20 years. We have closely followed and reported on their struggle. To the extent we are able, we are trying to help them in the reconstruction of their country by providing physicians, teachers, technicians and food. We have done that much to the extent we are able.

If you had the opportunity to listen to what I said on 26 July on the occasion of the visit by a large group of Sandinista chiefs, I called for a joint effort among all countries to help in the reconstruction of that country. No one can say that our statements have been radical or extremist. To the extent we are able, we have struggled to make everybody understand the nature of that revolution and the needs of that nation for help. We do not oppose U.S. help in the reconstruction of Nicaragua. On the contrary, we have publicly stated that it is a duty to help reconstruct Nicaragua and that we are very happy for the help being given to Nicaragua. I hope Nicaragua gets the maximum help. I feel this is a moral duty of the United States. But, it should be given without conditions. The Sandinistas have said they are willing to accept aid from everybody without any political conditions.

[Question] Mr President, you have alluded to the reasons you believe President Carter and other U.S. leaders have raised the issue of Soviet troops in Cuba. I wonder if you might amplify on what you think of the motives.

[Answer] I believe the following: There has been irresponsibility and bad management of the news in this. I believe that the determining factor in using this information and creating this problem was the sixth nonalined summit conference held in Havana. It is well known that the United States made great efforts to impede the convening of the sixth summit conference, to sabotage the sixth summit conference and to exercise influence over the sixth summit conference. The United States maintained contacts with nearly 40 countries, trying to exercise influence by different means. We have incontrovertible proof of this. We are keeping this proof to ourselves. We are not going to use that information. But we know the stance of the United States and the great concern it had regarding the sixth summit conference.

They managed the Soviet troops issue in relation to the sixth summit conference. It is known that a few days before the sixth summit conference, the State Department called Church and gave him this information so that he could speak out. Now, they did not believe that this would boomerang, or that it would even threaten the SALT agreements and become a political disaster for the Carter administration. Perhaps they thought that since the SALT agreement is very important, this could be used to make demands on Cuba and the Soviet Union and humiliate Cuba, hinder Cuba's work as a leader of the nonaligned movement and, at the same time, present Carter as an energetic man who could attain victory in the international arena. It is sort of an October microcrisis and, by the way, in a few days it will be the month of October. Someone said that history repeats itself, once or the first time as a tragedy and the second as a comedy. I would say that this is truly a complete comedy. This is what I believe.

[Question] What do you think President Carter ought to do now?

[Answer] That is a very difficult question. I believe the following: I believe that cooperation between the Soviets and Cuba began in the very first or second year of the revolution, at the end of 1960. Following that, all this policy of hostility against Cuba brought about the October crisis. The measures we adopted then, the consent we gave for the installation of arms of that type here was simply because we felt insecure in the face of invasions at Giron and threats of direct invasion. You all know these things. Logically we sought a strengthening of our defenses, and the October crisis occurred.

Military cooperation has remained at the same level, in the same manner and under the same principles of the October crisis agreements. I can assure you there has been absolutely no change in that. What is Carter's responsibility in this? What is even Ford's responsibility in this? What is Nixon's responsibility in this? Well, Nixon has some. Nixon was the vice president and he recommended the invasion at Giron. We cannot forget history now. But, Carter has no responsibility for the situation existing in our country. He totally inherited this situation. This situation has been in existence for over 17 years. How could this affect Carter's prestige? How could the Carter administration be blamed? Carter's fault is something else. He tried to use a situation which dates back many years to artificially create a problem, looking for several objectives which were the ones I mentioned. There can be no other explanation. I will say something else. You know better than I that these are Brzezinski's ideas. We have said it before. This is Brzezinski's strategy. This is Brzezinski's creation and Brzezinski is the one who has instilled in Carter's mind this plan--I say this with conviction--this macabre plan, this comedy, this hypocrisy and this falsehood.

[Question] Mr President, we could then say that according to your statements this training brigade....

[Answer--interrupting] No one knows what to call it--installation, brigade. No one knows. Call it military installation, Training Center No 12, as we have known it for 17 years. That is the name we have known for 17 years.

[Question] That Training Center No 12....

[Answer--interrupting] Maybe we will have to change the name. I will probably be criticized for having revealed military secrets.

[Question] Was that training center the result of the conversations or agreements reached by the two superpowers with respect to the October crisis?

[Answer] I said that it came about according to the spirit of the 1962 agreement and within the status quo established then. At the time the fundamental issue was the nuclear missiles. The number of advisers to remain here, which was rather small, was of no concern to anyone. This is something new. They have invented this concern after 17 years. That is what I am saying.

This is what Carter has to be asked. Let him tell the American people and world public opinion all he knows. This is a situation dating back 17 years. Or is it that Cuba and the Soviet Union have taken new steps to provoke a situation or to provoke a conflict? That is what I maintain. Those who know me know that I do not lie.

[Question] Mr President, at one time you described President Carter as an honorable man and a man of God. Do you think you were wrong?

[Answer] I did not say he was a man of God. I said I had the impression that Carter was an honest man whose upbringing was Christian. That was my impression. After this episode...because these experiences have repeated themselves. [sentence as heard] This has been repeated over and over gain. One day it is one thing--the MiG-23's, the crisis of the MiG-23's. Another day it is because Cuba receives two submarines, I mean one submarine, that is what we have received. That is the crisis of the submarines. Another time is because the Katanguese enter into Shaba. That is the Shaba crisis. This keeps repeating itself. Who puts all this together? Now, finally on the eve of the sixth summit, the crisis of the Soviet military personnel in Cuba.

This is not honest. I have the impression that Carter has not been honest with world public opinion or American public opinion. Unless I believe, and I do not, that Carter is a fool, a simpleton or an idiot who lets himself be deceived so stupidly by anyone, then I must stop thinking that Carter is a man of ethical principles. A sober-minded president does not play with world peace for whatever reasons.

[Question] Mr President, if President Carter is not a man of high principles, does that mean that you will not be able to continue to deal with him in normalizing relations between our two countries?

[Answer] Things are not that simple. I believed that there were people in the United States who favored the improvement of relations with Cuba, and that there were people who opposed the improvement of relations. Unquestionably, in Carter's feelings, or among Carter's advisers, those who have been struggling against the improvement of relations have won. It is painful for me to say this about Carter because Carter had made friendly gestures toward our country. We have also made them. We have made many gestures. I have always referred to Carter with great respect. I do not believe anything can be gained through insults or offenses.

However, a few days ago Carter attended an election rally and directed a diatribe against Cuba, as well as a number of insults against Cuba. I have seen how he has handled this problem. I believe there has been great dishonesty and I feel Carter should clarify this confusion and state why he has created this problem. I repeat, who are they going to make believe that for 17 years the CIA with hundreds of spies, hundreds of aircraft flights, and all types of electronic devices did not know about the military installations we have here. They cannot make anyone believe that. If not, ask the present CIA chief, or McCone, or one of those still alive. You are newsmen and everybody recognizes that North American newsmen are very capable. Well, find all those people and ask them. You will come up with a very interesting story. Ask everybody who might know something about what I have said right here.

[Question] Mr President, you have called on President Carter to clarify the situation. What if he does not?

[Answer] That is his problem. I am going to say the following: This is Carter's problem. It is not our problem. We are absolutely not at fault in this problem. The Soviet Union is absolutely not at fault. What is to be done? What are the intentions? Is it to humiliate, to demand? As of right now I am saying we are not going to yield to any demand. We are not going to be intimidated by any threat or anything.

We will always be here ready, as we have been for the past 20 years, for everything--ready to defend our country, to defend the rights of our country, and to fight and die for our country. That is clear and that is the only thing we will do.

If Carter goes crazy, that is your problem, a problem for the North Americans and a tragedy for the entire world. But it would also be a great tragedy for the United States. How are they going to get out of this situation? I believe by telling the truth. If they do not tell all the truth, the U.S. people and world public opinion should at least be told that this problem has been artificially created. Will Carter have the courage to admit this? If he does, I would sincerely admire him and I would be very happy.

[Question] Mr President, I asked you earlier about the face-to-face meeting with Carter to discuss this situation and you said you would not propose it. Will you consider addressing this problem before the United Nations and, in addition, discussing the final communique of accomplishments of the sixth summit before the United Nations?

[Answer] Regarding the first question, I would say that I am a free man and can meet with whomever I please. I doubt Carter has the same freedom I enjoy. I do not want to propose this. I explained the reasons why I cannot propose that. Regarding the United Nations, even though it has not been considered, a decision has not yet been reached on the timing and date for my visit to the United Nations. A definitive decision has not yet been made on this, but it should not be considered a dead issue.

[Question] Mr President, could you tell us whether Cuba has facilities to train troops in the People's Republic of Grenada?

[Answer] I do not want to answer that question. Properly speaking, we do not have a training center. We have provided some modest and discreet cooperation after the triumph of the revolution. We do not have a center as such. There have been some Cubans there. There have been some Cubans to give some aid and modest assistance.

[Question] Are you speaking of the military aid?

[Answer] Yes, yes.

[Question] Would this reach the point of building a training center?

[Answer] Actually, this has never been discussed, talked about or contemplated. We gave this cooperation at the beginning after the triumph. Now we are discussing overall cooperation with Grenada in the fields of medicine, construction, fishing and agriculture, but only in those fields. That is what we have talked about with them in recent months. I had the opportunity to hold talks with Bishop and he was here during the sixth summit. All talks have dealt with civilian cooperation.

[Question] Mr President, could you tell us if you feel, if Cuba feels that it needs Soviet military personnel here for defense or training purposes?

[Answer] We need them mainly for training purposes. If we can mobilize a million men in case of war, the Soviet advisers, the Soviet personnel amount to an insignificant number. They would be much less than one percent of the total number of men we can mobilize.

[Question] One of the things that Mr Brzezinski said several weeks ago when he referred to your government as a puppet government was that Cuban foreign policy has never been significantly different from Soviet foreign policy. This is a question that you have been asked a number of times and one of the answers, sometimes not from you but from other Cubans, is that the 1962 missile crisis probably was an example of that, that perhaps the Cubans would have maintained a stronger line than the Soviets did. Is there any possibility that the current situation will be similar and that perhaps you, who are so outraged by this incident, are not interested in any kind of negotiation?

[Answer] You have spoken about many things. The first one is what Brzezinski believes we are. We are not going to perform brain surgery to look into Brzezinski's head and find out what he is thinking. I could ask the following question: Why has so much attention been given to Cuba if Cuba does not have any policy of its own? Why are they so concerned about Cuba leading the nonalined movement? Why does Cuba today have support in the midst of that movement? How can that be explained? We are a satellite country.

These are old theories but I am not interested in those matters or wish to pay attention to them. Those are merely rhetorical problems. This problem she is talking about involves three countries, but not just three countries since international interests are also involved. It is said this is a microcrisis, a pseudocrisis, or whatever name you give it. Whether false or real, it could place the SALT agreements in jeopardy. If this is true, I believe this should be of concern to mankind in general, not only to the United States, the Soviet Union and Cuba. What is the price that must be paid for the SALT agreement? Must one be subjected to balckmail, intimidation, and humiliation. On such a basis, Cuba's cooperation cannot be counted upon. Regarding the line the Soviets will follow, you will have to ask the Soviets. I cannot speak for them. But the Soviets have demonstrated they are good friends of ours.

[Question] Mr President, you have repeatedly spoken about the great discretion with which Cuba has involved itself elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere. [Castro interrupts] What hemisphere are you referring to, this of America, this that the United States believes to be its private property? Every time one hears a North American politicians, one reaches the conclusion that they think they own Cuba and consider themselves to be owners of America. We do not accept that thesis. All these things--the blockade, U.S. hostility and the plans to assassinate leaders of the Cuban revolution--are precisely due to the fact that we refuse to accept the theory that Cuba is the private property of the United States. Concretely speaking, what is he asking about discretion in cooperation? What does he want to know?

[Question] What do you mean by discretion in Cuba's involving itself in the internal affairs of other countries?

[Answer] We are not involved in the affairs of other countries. I have not said that.

[Question] Then, what about Grenada?

[Answer] Grenada has an established legal government. Where is our meddling? If that is meddling, then you are meddling in the affairs of 60 countries of the world at least. I do not know why it is meddling in our case. How about your meddling in Japan? In Turkey? In Greece? In the FRG? In England? In Spain? In Panama? in Puerto Rico? The list is endless. [Castro sounds upset] I am not talking about that. I am talking about cooperating in a discreet manner, not a....but that is because we want to do it that way. It is because it is more convenient that way. We do not want to appear as troublemakers. We do not want to appear as creators of problems and conflicts. That is the meaning of the word discretion. We have been discreet and careful. We have not conducted a publicity campaign on that.

[Question] Mr President, back on the matter of Training Center No 12. We have not discussed one subject. Has there been a substantial difference in the level and kind of armaments, particularly armored vehicles?

[Answer] In all training centers--and we have several in our country--the equipment is renewed. What is a training center going to do with a fifteenth century harquebus? All these centers have a modern material capability and it cannot be any other way.

[Question] Has there been an increase?

[Answer] There has been no increase. I would not call it increase. I cannot say exactly because I am not following it that closely. I ask myself if the equipment has been renewed, and I am sure that the equipment must be renewed at all training centers. Are you the only ones asking the questions?

[Question] Mr President, is the Soviet military personnel stationed at Training Center No 12 the only ones being used as training personnel? Is that Center No 12 the only one or are there other areas where they are stationed?

[Answer] I myself could not answer that question. We have many but I cannot give you exact figures. That is why when you say Division No 160, that is conventional.

[Question] My question is this. Why is this center the target of the crisis and not the others?

[Answer] The reason is that there is a greater number of personnel there. I believe that is the reason. I know they are referring to that center. It is clear that they are referring to it.

[Question] Is that the only base where the Soviet troops are stationed?

[Answer] What troops are you talking about?

[Question] I am talking about personnel. [laughter]

[Answer] You are talking about personnel. That is the only installation... We have Soviet personnel in almost all installations, in greater or lesser numbers. They supply the equipment. But there are not as many as you had in Iran. I believe the United States had some 40,000 advisers there. Here there are much, much, much less. I am not going to say because you want me to reveal military information and I believe that I should not do the work of the CIA. I have been asked...I was almost asked what type of tanks Training Center No 12 has. If that line of questioning continues, I will be revealing military secrets doing the CIA's work.

[Question] [unheard]

[Answer] I believe he likes that center. It is a good center.

[Question] Could we say that they have good information on the quantity of troops [stationed there]?

[Answer] Well, I do not know. You must ask them. According to them, they are saying that they did not know that center existed for the past 17 years. I refuse to believe that. I believe it is a huge, colossal lie.

[Question] Mr President, you also are the president of the nonalined movement?

[Answer] Yes, and I have to dedicate great efforts to that, which is why I cannot devote my attention exclusively to this problem. I cannot devote my attention to Center No 12 exclusively.

[Question] At the United Nations, some nonalined countries practically violated some of the agreements adopted at the sixth summit connection with Kampuchea. Do the nonalined countries plan to adopt any measures in this respect?

[Answer] No, the nonalined countries do not adopt measures on those topics. The nonalined countries adopt agreements by consensus, that is, when a sufficiently large number, the overwhelming majority--not by voting half plus one--when the overwhelming majority reaches agreement on something, the agreements are adopted by consensus.

Regarding Kampuchea, the overwhelming majority adopted the agreement that no one be sit. Those countries which adopted that position at the United Nations, whether in favor of sitting the People's Republic of Kampuchea or not sitting anybody--a majority of the nonalined countries--in that sense they adopted the same position they adopted here. The group favoring Pol Pot's representative--even though everybody who spoke here recognized that Pol Pot's regime was guilty of genocide and no one defended him--argued that Pol Pot's regime should be represented. This was a minority.

That group joined the United States, China and others such as El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti--countries which are friends of the United States and China--in all hemispheres. There were a group of nonalined countries, a minority, which supported Pol Pot's representative. In reality, the majority of the nonalined countries adopted the same position they adopted here. On all these things I suppose the countries are free to act in one way or another.

[Question] With respect to Lopez-Portillo's speech at the...

[Answer] Actually, I have only read a few reports. I do not have the text. I do not have sufficient material. In recent days the wire agencies, above all last night and this morning, have been mainly addressing this problem.

[Question] Why do you think repression has been intensified now in Puerto Rico?

[Answer] I believe it is because the strength of the movement for the independence of Puerto Rico is growing. There is no time limit to this. [Castro is referring to the press conference] How long have we been going?

[Question] Did the Soviet personnel stationed at Training Center No 12 recently go on some type of maneuvers which would lead the U.S. Government to reclassify them as combat troops?

[Answer] What does the U.S. Government have to do with the fact that the personnel move around and go wherever they want to go? Logically, that personnel must work with us and work with us in all our activities. What I can really tell you is that the center is subordinated to our armed forces. It is our armed forces that plan the training, maneuvers and so forth.

[Question] May I ask another question, Mr President?

[Answer] Is it on military secrets also?

[Question] No. How do you propose that the issue of the Soviet presence be settled?

Mr Gromyko suggested the other day that President Carter should just drop the matter. Do you make that same suggestion?

[Answer] I believe Gromyko's suggestion is correct because the Soviets have given a broad explanation to the North Americans. The Soviets have not created any problem. The problem has been created by the U.S. Government. Why should the U.S. Government create problems and others solve them? We have enough problems of our own. Why should we solve those of the United States? Let us see if you can help them. One more question.

[Question] We have very few opportunities to talk to you.

[Answer] I fear you might become bored and the conference lose interest. I did not set any limits but I think that the more questions you make, the more interest might be lost. What did you want to ask?

[Question] There have been unofficial charges made in El Salvador that your armed forces have been training groups from that country here in Cuba.

[Answer] I think we will let the CIA do that work. I cannot do it. Not training. Perhaps 17 years from today they will say that we had a training center there.

[Question] Commander, why have you changed your opinion that the presidency is in a state of crisis?

[Answer] Not the presidency. I said the reelection is in a state of crisis.

[Question] As chief of state of a country whose interest is to have good relations with other countries, which do you consider would be better for Cuba, a second Carter term or a new president?

[Answer] It has always been said that there would be more possibilities with a second Carter term. I am not against Carter. Probably Carter would be better from the point of view of improved relations in the future. Perhaps there will be a Republican president. That is possible. It is said that the Republican is the more warmongering party and the Democratic more peaceful. I have also heard that the Democrats start the wars and the Republicans make the peace. That was the case in the Korean war and other instances. But, well, there is no dogma on this. It has also been said that the Democrats are more flexible in economic matters and the Republicans are supporters of protectionist laws. Now it has been proven that the Democratic administration is more protectionist than before. It is acting as a protectionist government. That is why it finds itself in conflict with many Latin American countries. However, I am not on the side of the Republicans. With respect to this Carter problem, I would sincerely be glad if Carter has a second term. I am really sorry that Carter has been drawn into this situation. I am really sorry. I am sorry for him and the rest. I am sorry because there was no need for it. There was no need for it, I repeat. There was no legal or moral base for this proble.... How to get out of this problem is a problem. But I believe that if Carter is courageous and explains the truth, world public opinion and national opinion can be oriented toward this question and made to understand that neither Cuba nor the USSR have taken any steps to create a crisis. I believe that this is the essential thing. A lady asks to make a last question.

[Question] Has this situation created a conflict or difficulties between Cuba and the Soviet Union?

[Answer] Not at all. I do not believe it will create difficulties. Thank you all. Did you have more questions? The truth is that you take advantage. [Unidentified voice interrupts and says the conference has ended].

GRANMA VIEWS DEVELOPMENT OF 'ARTIFICIAL' SOVIET TROOPS CRISIS

FL291129 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1045 GMT 29 Sep 79 FL

[Text] The paper GRANMA, official organ of the PCC Central committee, today publishes a synthesis of the development of the artificial crisis created by the United States on the so-called problem of Soviet troops in Cuba. The paper explains that the most immediate origin of this issue dates from last 30 August when Senator Frank Church, democrat from Idaho, stated that the intelligence services had confirmed the existence of Soviet combat troops in Cuba. He called on President Carter to demand their immediate withdrawal. Church publicly acknowledged that the day before he had a call from Secretary of State Cyrus Vance confirming the existence of the troops and stating the the State Department had asked for an explanation from the Soviet Embassy on the situation.

GRANMA points out that from that moment a campaign was unleashed in which the main role quickly passed into the hands of the present North American administration and personally to President Carter. The paper states that significantly the launching of this campaign coincided with the start of the sixth summit of the nonalined countries and that during the time this important event took place in Havana, the magnitude and tone of statements made by Yankee politicians and officials revealed the efforts to create a crisis without any true basis whatsoever.

In its synthesis on the development of the artificial crisis created by the United States, which deals with the alleged existence of Soviet combat troops in Cuba, GRANMA enumerates the various statements made by North American politicians and officials on this topic and goes on to chronologically point out the way in which this alleged problem grew as the sixth nonalined summit was taking place. It also points out the threatening tone of the Yankee politicians and officials' statements directed at Cuba and the Soviet Union. It stresses that various legislators, among them aspirants to the presidency, have been threatening to oppose the ratification of the SALT II treaty signed between the United States and the Soviet Union if the alleged Soviet troops, which are said to be in Cuba, are not withdrawn.

GRANMA refers to the pathetically ridiculous speech by President Carter given on 7 September when he said, according to an AFP dispatch, that this is the time to give an example of a firm diplomacy, but we should not frighten ourselves nor exaggerate the situation. The synthesis by GRANMA ends by stating that the language was the same as what has appeared daily in every statement until arriving at its consecration yesterday, officiated by President Carter and his advisers. GRANMA concludes by stating that the Yankee leader met no less than three times in less than 24 hours with his national security council to deal with what some of his own spokesmen said was no longer a crisis, but a problem.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY WORKERS HOLD MEETING IN HAVANA

FL251813 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Sep 79 FL

[Text] Antonio Esquivel, minister of the chemical industry, and Noel Zublaur, secretary general of the Chemical and Energy Trade Union, have presided over a meeting held at the Jose Antonio Echevarria Workers Social Circle in Havana to review the levels of industrial production and the prospects of fulfilling the plan set for the present year in the chemical and energy fields. In his presentation Chemical Industry Minister Antonio Esquivel reviewed the productive activities in the various enterprises in that field. An important aspect pointed out in his presentation was mention of the deficiencies which have been detected resulting from bad management and administrative negligence which counter the good work done in the sector. Finally the chemical industry minister called on all the leaders and workers to become more demanding and diligent in their daily work.

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